



Welcome to Neighborhood Watch of Spokane County!

Thank you for your interest in starting a *Watch* in your area!

Staying connected to Spokane County's Neighborhood Watch Program gives you access to crime tips, educational materials, presentations, home security checks, signage, workshops, important alerts and more.

Forming a *Watch* group

- Fill out the Neighborhood Watch Organizer Application and mail or fax it in as soon as possible. You will only be contacted if there is a problem with your application.

Note: The application is kept solely on file with the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for communication purposes.

- Contact neighbors to see who may be interested in getting involved and check-in with them about their availability to attend a meeting.

Note: A group is usually comprised of your immediate neighbors—the homes located within your block or cul-de-sac. This may or may not include all the neighbors and may be as few as 6 homes or up to 20 or more homes.

Homeowner's Associations, rural communities, mobile home parks, and condo or apartment complexes can also form watch groups. There may be one lead contact for the entire group and then smaller sub-groups where applicable.

- Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator or Crime Prevention Deputy to find a good date for a meeting. Contact information is at the bottom of this memo. If you're planning to meet at a local church, library, grange or other community location, you might want to check their availability first.
- Once you have a date set, encourage as many neighbors to attend as possible. Either pass out a flyer door-to-door or call or email them. You may want to offer beverages and/or snacks to encourage neighbors, but it is not required.
- At the meeting, the coordinator and/or deputy will go over the crimes in your area and will give a short presentation on deterring crime. Crime prevention materials will also be provided for the group.

Note: Reflective Neighborhood Watch street signs will also be available for purchase—the money collected covers the cost of manufacturing and shipping, and is only used to buy more signs.

Maintaining your *Watch* group

Staying in touch is the key to a successful *Watch* group!

- Set up a contact information sheet for the neighborhood.

Note: It is helpful to include names, street address, phone numbers, email addresses, vehicles owned, pet information, numbers to call in case of emergency and any special needs.

- Create a distribution list to notify neighbors about various concerns—via email, Facebook, Yahoo groups, Nextdoor, Nixle or other form of communication.

- Set up a phone tree list in the event of an emergency.
- Remind neighbors to report suspicious activity and any crimes to Crime Check: 456-2233

If a situation requires immediate law enforcement assistance, call 9-1-1

- Distribute the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter—via email or door-to-door.
- Consider having a neighborhood party for National Night Out Against Crime—held the 1st Tuesday evening in August. Have a BBQ, ice cream social, safety presentation, etc.

Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for more information

- Create a block map of the homes in your area (not required, but helpful in an emergency) and share with the group. Remind them that this information should be respected and used solely for the purposes of the watch group.

An 8 ½” X 11” sheet of paper is best for sharing, and a simple sketch is fine

- Contact your local S.C.O.P.E. station to learn about programs available for your community

Throughout the nation it has been shown that by building relationships with neighbors, we lower crime rates, but also improve the overall quality of life in our neighborhoods

For more information:

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Simone Ramel, 509-477-3055
sramel@spokanesherriff.org

Crime Prevention Deputies

Call 509-477-6044 for the unincorporated areas of Spokane County
Call 509-477-2592 for the City of Spokane Valley

History of Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhoods have been looking out for themselves for a long time. In 1972, the National Sheriffs' Association wanted to bring law enforcement and citizens closer together in their public safety efforts, and this is how the national Neighborhood Watch program was created.

In Spokane County, Block Watch had already existed, but in 1979, the Sheriff's Office decided to call it Neighborhood Watch in support of the national program. Both terms are used locally.

In 2011, Neighborhood Watch joined S.C.O.P.E. (Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort) in order to further build the connection between neighborhoods and their communities.

The goal of any watch program is to unite and educate citizens about what they can do to deter crime and have safer neighborhoods. By connecting with neighbors, watch groups have been able to improve the quality of life, and at the same time, restore pride in their neighborhood. Some groups have connected with local businesses and/or organizations to collaborate on projects such as community cleanups, park restoration, shred days and more.